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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,416	09/24/2003	Varghese George	1678-60-3	9378

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EXAMINER	
CHO, JAMES HYONCHOL	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2819	

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,416	GEORGE, VARGHESE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James Cho	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 May 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *12-25* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4 and 6-8* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *5 and 9-11* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 February 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 5-19-2005.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-5 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 4, "signal nodes" on line 4 appears to be --data signal nodes--, and "selected signal" on line 5 appears to be --selected data signal";

In claim 5, "signal nodes" on line 3 appears to be --data signal nodes--; and

In claim 7, "signal nodes" on lines 3 and 4 appears to be --data signal nodes-- respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunter et al. (US PAT No. 6,834,318).

Regarding claim 1, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches a method of configuring a bidirectional buffer, the buffer (320 in Fig. 3) including first and second data signal nodes (data signal nodes where INDICATOR A, B are present) and the method

comprising: applying a configuration signal on one of the first and second data signal nodes (data signals, INDICATOR A or B is applied to the data signal node); and configuring the buffer responsive to the applied configuration signal (direction of the buffer is configured in response to INDICATOR A/B).

Regarding claim 2, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches the method of claim 1 where configuring the buffer responsive to the applied configuration signal comprises detecting an edge of the applied configuration signal (Fig. 4 shows the voltage change where the edge of the pulse is inherently changed is detected).

Regarding claim 3, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches the method of claim 1 where configuring the buffer responsive to the applied configuration signal comprises detecting a level of the applied configuration signal (Fig. 4 shows the voltage change where the edge of the pulse is inherently changed is detected).

Regarding claim 4, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches the method of claim 1 where applying the configuration signal on one of the first and second nodes comprises selecting one of the signal nodes to which the configuration signal is to be applied where the selected signal node determines a direction of operation of the buffer (during the event 1 in Fig. 4 the change of INDICATOR A is detected and enables buffers A; col. 4, lines 2-4) and applying the configuration signal on the selected node (INDICATOR A is applied to the node).

Regarding claim 6, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches the method of claim 1, where the configuration signal comprises a series of pulses (INDICATOR A in Fig. 4 is a part of series pulse for each data transfer).

Regarding claim 7, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches the method of claim 1 where configuring the buffer responsive to the applied configuration signal comprises enabling the buffer to operate in a first direction with the first signal node corresponding to an input node (during the event 1, buffer 330 is enabled in response to INDICATOR A at the first node. The corresponding node in buffer 330 is a node in BUS A) is enabled and the second node corresponding to an output node (BUS B becomes the output node corresponding to INDICATOR B).

Regarding claim 8, Figs. 3-5 of Hunter et al. teaches a method of configuring a bidirectional buffer, the buffer including first and second data signal nodes (data signal nodes where INDICATOR A, B are present) and the method comprising: applying a configuration signal (INDICATOR A or INDICATOR B) on one of the first and second data signal nodes (nodes coupled to INDICATOR A, B) ; storing a first memory bit (A5 stores a bit in response to CK which is driven by INDICATOR A) responsive to the applied configuration signal and enabling the buffer to operate in a first direction responsive to the stored memory bit (direction control output CNTL A, B is on or off in response to an output of A5 in Fig. 5).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 12-25 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter has been discussed in the previous Office action mailed Feb. 14, 2005.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 19, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 8 by changing the first and second signal nodes into the first and second data signal nodes and argued that the Hunter neither discloses nor suggests applying a configuration signal on one of the first and second data signal nodes on page 10 of the amendment. However, the examiner notes that the Hunter discloses all limitations and scopes of the amended claims. The Hunter teaches the first and second data signal nodes denoted by INDICATOR A and INDICATOR B which carry the data signals for INDICATOR A and INDICATOR B. The signals for INDICATOR A and INDICATOR B are data signals associated with the direction controls. The examiner further notes that the tristate buffer ,330-N+1, where N is the number of data bits on the bus 110, is a part of buffer block 320 as discussed in column 3, lines 48-62. On page 9 of the amendment, the applicant has explained the nodes

204 and 206 of Figure 2 of the instant application receiving data inputs or outputs of the buffer 202 when configured as well as receiving the configuration signals to configure the buffer 202. Although these limitations are found as examples or embodiments in the specification, they are not claimed explicitly. Nor the words that are used in the claims defined in the specification to require these limitations. A reading of the specification provides no evidence to indicate that these limitations must be imported into the claims to give meaning to disputed terms. *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices Inc.*, 7 USPQ2d 1064.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Cho whose telephone number is 571-272-1802. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Tokar can be reached on 571-272-1812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James Cho
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2819

June 28, 2005